

Appl. No.: 10/532,838
Reply to Office Action of: 11/02/2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2.

In Fig. 1, "15" has been changed to --14-- because "15" is used for a different component in Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2, reference number "17" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US 5,015,197) in view of Etters (US 6,010,359). Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US 5,015,197) in view of Etters (US 6,010,359) and Geltsch (US 6,773,288). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US 5,015,197) in view of Etters (US 6,010,359) and Aoki (US 6,949,316). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claims 2 and 4 has not been amended because it is believed that Geltsch et al. is not a proper reference. The present application was copending with Geltsch et al. Geltsch et al. is owned by the same owner as the present application: FCI. The assignment document has been filed with the USPTO, but applicants' attorney does not know the reel and frame numbers yet. Geltsch et al. and the present application were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, **commonly owned**. The examiner is directed to MPEP §706.02(1)(2). In accordance with MPEP §706.02(1)(2)(II), it is understood that this statement alone is sufficient evidence to disqualify Geltsch et al. from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) against the claims of the present application. Thus, the examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections based upon Geltsch et al.

In regard to Aoki, it was filed in the U.S. on May 17, 2004. The present application is a national stage application of international application No. PCT/EP2003/012004 filed on

October 23, 2003. Therefore, filing date of the present application is before the U.S. filing date of Aoki. Thus, Aoki is not prior art. The examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 5 and 6 based upon Aoki.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 1 claims a connector arrangement between a flat flex cable and a component of an electrical circuit, wherein the flat flex cable has conductor regions stripped of insulation on only one side of its end being connected. Redmond et al. does not disclose or suggest a flat flex cable with conductor regions stripped of insulation on only one side of its end. Claim 1 claims that an elastic element subjects the stripped regions to pressure. In Redmond et al., the conductors must be bent permanently of a specific quantity to form the "deflection arms". This permanent deformation does away with the need to use a resilient backing rib, such as rib 36 in Etters et al. There appears to be no suggestion to combine the teachings of Etters et al. to Redmond et al. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-7 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claims 8-21 have been added above to further claim the features recited therein.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

2-2-06 Ann O'Brien-Towick
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